

*Thunder Bay, Ontario*



Volume 80

**May 2014**

Issue # 5

## Recollections

Tim Whittaker

VE4CT (ex VE3WCT) &  
Sandy, VE4WSL (ex VE3WSL)

*Congratulations everyone on the 80th anniversary of L.A.R.C.*

I first became interested in Ham Radio in the late 70's and enrolled in a Ham Radio course sponsored by LARC, at the old EMO building at the corner of Victoria and Waterloo. Due to other commitments I did not complete the course.

In 1988, with a re-sparked interest in radio, and with the mentoring of Ed (VE3SNW), I challenged the exam at the formerly named D.O.C. , located at the Port Arthur post office, and received my licence.

Of all the activities that Sandy and I were most fond of, was the Boston Pizza coffee meets after the LARC general club meetings. Tall tales of amateur radio exploits and future dreams of new equipment etc. Made for very memorable moments. I also remember, standing on the roof of TBR putting up a packet radio antenna in the dark. That being said, Field Day(s), Hymers Fall Fair , etc. also provided good times and lots of laughs.

Sandy, VE4WSL (ex VE3WSL) recalls a snowmobile race event called the Jeep 500. LARC was volunteering for communications for the event. As the event was ending, Amateurs discovered that a contestant was missing from the race. A series of check points manned by LARC members indicated where the participant had gone missing.

Mark Vukovich (VE3VUK) jumped on his snowmobile and located the the racer and his broken down snowmobile.

In 1995 a layoff at the Railroad Police Dept. required that we move to Barrie Ont. for 2 years. Then a further

round of cuts resulted in another move to "VE4 Land", where we settled in to the routine of life. In 2010, the department decided to relocate our Police Comm Centre to Winnipeg.

I made the move from operations to the Comm Centre where I remained until retirement, finishing with 32 years of service.

73's from Tim and Sandy

**Jim Roberts  
VE7ZO**

I grew up in a household where ham radio permeated. My father Bill VE3ARN, one of the earliest members of the LARC was active in many modes and I can't remember when there wasn't a tri-bander and dipoles strung up in the back yard. He was my mentor and despite growing up in a radio family, it wasn't until I was 15 that I showed any interest in amateur radio. I knew code from boy scouts and one day he encouraged me to sit down and chat with a HA5 station on 20M. Somehow after that I was hooked. I worked a lot of novices before applying for my license and dug through my dad's logs and sent out for QSL's that he could care less about. Cool stuff like VS9 and Don Miller's Heard Island expedition.

First licensed contact was ZS1XR using my new call 3C3EDC (CDN centennial pfx) -- I couldn't wait to find a DX station worthy enough for my first QSO. I enjoy geography and history and of course, it didn't take long to appreciate the benefits of DX contesting in increasing one's DXCC totals. Locally, it was fun sharing DX'ing experiences in the 70's and 80's with Dave Bush VE3EDG, Steve Bush VE3DP, Pat VE3HFS and Tom VE3HHS. Still great to work Tom in the pileups.

In the mid 70's I began to travel to the Toronto area to participate in multi-multi contest at Bob's VE3KZ and had the chance to operate some excellent equipment in a competitive geographic location. It was during these operations that I met John VE3EJ and we have been friends since. Due to John's skill and dedication, our two man team has had the opportunity to represent Canada in five WRTC's and together we now have the longest participation of any team. The highlight was winning the competition in Brazil in 2006. John will be teaming up with Fred K9VV in the 2014 WRTC in New England and you know which team I'll be pulling for.

I graduated as a chemical engineer from Lakehead University in 1978 and have worked in the pulp and paper industry since. In 1993 I moved to Campbell River in British Columbia and left as the director of operations at Powell River in 2002. I then took a job in the US Southeast where I am currently the Southeast Director of Sales for Valmet, a Finnish Pulp and Paper equipment manufacturer with a regional office in Atlanta.

Radio contesting has provided me with the opportunity to operate from a number of top notch M/M stations including VE3EJ, K3LR, HC8N and most recently with the team at NQ4I. I can most often be found during major DX contests at Rick's NQ4I QTH. If he has work commitments, I will usually show up as a single band entry. Although most of my activity is centered around the major DX contests, one treat I really enjoy each year is the Florida QSO Party. Good friend George/ K5KG and I drive around the Florida counties for a weekend and work an incredible number of stations as we move from county to county. We usually end up with ~ 2500 Q's for the 20 hour contest period with lots of DX from our little mobile.

So, as you can see, when this radio bug bit, it bit hard. In many ways, the new technology has improved the contesting experience and after 47 years, I'm still working many of the same ops and loving the experience.



Jim at Old Field Day



K5KG and VE7ZO Florida QSO Party rig



NQ4I 20 M Beam 030



Rick NQ4I and Jim



VE3LUE photo with OH5PY and VE3EDC



VE7ZO at the 10M position at NQ4I



WRTC Russian VE3EJ and VE7ZO

**LARC SENATE**

Robert Hansen VE3RVA  
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS  
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD  
Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**LARC EXECUTIVE**

**President - Jeff Cederwall**  
**VE3JTD**

**Vice President - Bob Hanson**  
**VE3RVA**

**Secretary - Karl Hamilton**  
**VE3RRP**

**Treasurer -Bill Unger VE3XT**

**Directors**

**Brad Harris VE3MXJ**  
**Andy Malcolm VE3INI**  
**Lori Bedford VE3VAI**  
**Terry Stewardson VA3LU**

**LARC Emergency Coordinator**

**Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628**

**ARES District Emergency Coordinator**

**VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789**

**CANWARN**

**VA3JMS John 767-3631**  
**VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628**

**Public Service Events**

**VA3JMS John 767-3631**

**Accredited Examiners**

**VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789**  
**flesnick@tbaytel.net**  
**VE3VAI Lori Bedford 622 – 6386**  
**ve3vai@tbaytel.net**

**ABOUT US**

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to [hiqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hiqnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Nets in the Thunder Bay Area**

**Sunday** AMETHYST ARES VHF NET, on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9031 @ 0045Z (7:45 pm), also Cook County ARES Response Team ( CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS 151.4

**Monday** SATERN NET on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9032

SATERN DIGITAL NETS on **Monday & Wednesday** nights

8 pm- 14.065

9 pm- 7.065

10 pm- 3.5835

Mode :Olivia 8/500 1000Hz waterfall centre

**Tuesday** 2M/ LARC ARES NET on VE3YQT 147.060- @ 7:00PM ET, and after this net is the new THUNDER BAY ARES DIGITAL NET on PSK31 between 1000 & 2000 WATERFALL 145.050 FM mode @ 7:30PM ( usually starts after the 2m/ ares net)

**Every Day** The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: [ve3mxj@rac.ca](mailto:ve3mxj@rac.ca)

**LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

**VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch**

**VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2**

**442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100**

**144.390 APRS**

**VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)**

# Q.R.P.T.T.F.



Don VE3EDT Doug VE3EFC



AAARRG, he got my callsign wrong!



Mike VE3EDX With his KX3 to the field



L to R : RVA, EDX, CX, EFC and EDT chowing on Mexican Pork and Beans



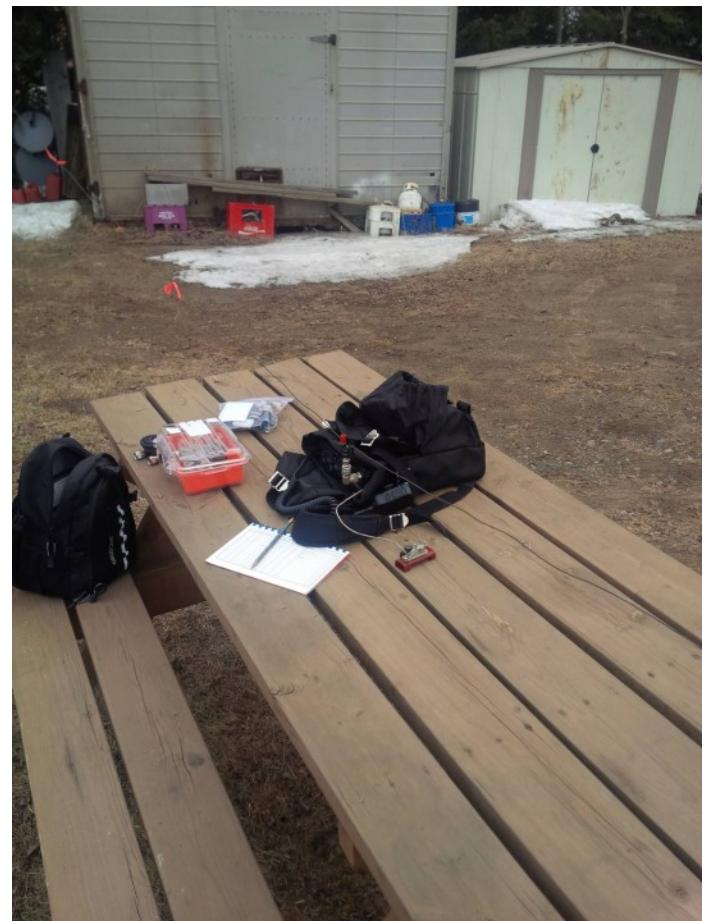
We worked 3 stations on SO 51 including VE3JW in Ottawa.

## 5 Minutes to QRP

By Fred Lesnick VE3FAL

Easter is almost here, it is 0°celsius outside in Thunder Bay, Ontario and we are under a Special Weather Statement for tonight and tomorrow with 15 cm's of snow possible and heavy winds causing drifting. As if cabin fever has not been bad enough. So at 4:10 PM today I took the VX1210

<http://www.vertexstandard.com/lmr/HF-Radios/VX-1210> outside to the picnic table, put one 33' chunk of wire about 10' up in a spruce tree, put the other 33' piece along the ground underneath for a counterpoise and went to 17 meters. As I tuned across I heard all kinds of stations with a huge pileup located above 18.075... I tuned down just a bit to hear OK2AN Vasek in Kunstat Czech. Calling CQ with no takers... I fired up the straight key with cold hands, sent my call and he came right back to me. He gave me a 569 and he was an easy 599. Told him I was running 5 watts out and he acknowledged that on the next go round. We talked about 10 minutes and then he continued on. So in all the time it took me to set up I was able to make a QSO with Czech. With no problems at all with the VX1210 at 5 watts...what a blast!



Are you a member?

**April 2014 Treasurers Report**

<b>Balance April 01 2014</b>	<b><u>\$1,554.34</u></b>
------------------------------	--------------------------

**Income**

April 14 50/50	\$13.00
----------------	---------

<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$13.00</u></b>
---------------------	-----------------------

**Expenses**

TB Tel Cell	\$0.57
Annual Dinner Expenses	\$41.23

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$41.80</u></b>
-----------------------	-----------------------

<b>Balance April 30, 2014</b>	<b><u>\$1,525.54</u></b>
-------------------------------	--------------------------

**Trailer Account**

<b>Previous Balance</b>	<b>\$785.04</b>
-------------------------	-----------------

**Income**

April 30 Interest	\$0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$785.11</b>

**Expenses**

<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
------------------------	---------------

<b>Balance in Trailer Account</b>	<b><u>\$785.11</u></b>
-----------------------------------	------------------------

**Term Account**

<b>Balance April 01 2014</b>	<b>\$2,033.80</b>
------------------------------	-------------------

<b>Interest April 04 2014</b>	<b>\$0.67</b>
-------------------------------	---------------

<b>Balance April 30 2014</b>	<b>\$2,034.47</b>
------------------------------	-------------------

**Bill Unger  
VE3XT  
Treasurer**

## Minutes for the

## Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Date: April 10, 2014

President, Jeff Cedarwall VE3JTD Presiding.

Cathryn Mendes-Schwartz spoke about nutrition for seniors, and had some literature to hand out.

Marcel Mongeon, who is legal council for RAC, spoke to the group.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Unger VE3XT

Bill Unger VE3XT moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP Passed Unanimously.

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the March's meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Norm Bell VE3XRC. Passed.

This meeting was the LARC annual dinner.

The LARC Amateur of the year award was given to Norm Bell VE3XRC to recognize his decades of dedication to organizing ham radio participation in public service events, and in particular for his efforts with the Sleeping Giant Loppet.

50/50 Draw: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Adjournment moved by: Bill Unger VE3XT

Next Executive Meeting: May 1, 2014

Next LARC Meeting: May 8, 2014



**CANWARN  
Training  
2014**

**June 9  
– 7 PM –  
McIntyre Building  
Room 274  
Confederation College**



## North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for May, 2014



My term as a Director is coming to an end this December as I will be termed out. It will be 7 years that I have been a Director and it's time to move on. But if given the chance to do it again would I? In a dits time at 35 WPM.

The absolute best part of the job was travelling in the region, (albeit not as much as I would have liked) and around this great country meeting Amateurs and hearing what they think. There are now several cities where I can go and say I have friends I have met because of my travels with RAC. It has been an exceptionally positive experience.

I do occasionally get asked if the folks who sit on the sideline and take shots at RAC management and practices bother me, and the answer is no. It takes no skill to sit on the side and gripe, anyone can do that. My thanks to all the RAC volunteers who year after year support the national organisation with their time and effort to make it better. Whether they are Volunteer Examiners, part of ARES, man a booth at a flea market selling RAC memberships, to the Canadian Amateurs who goto Dayton and volunteer to man the RAC booth and dozens of other ways in which they support RAC. They are the folks through countless hours of volunteer time make RAC the success it is and getting better. Not the "Debby Downers" who sit on the side and take cheap shots.

The other reason for the success of RAC is its members who not only agree RAC is important but support it financially. When you pay to support an organisation it speaks volumes on what you think of it. There are literally thousands of Canadian Amateurs and over 300 Amateurs who are Maple Leaf Members. Thanks for your continued support.

So why am I rambling on like this? Well as mentioned my term is coming to an end and RAC will need someone to step forward and take on the Directors position. It will take some of your time and cash to be honest, but overall it is a great way to meet new Amateurs across North East Ontario and across Canada and help steer the future of Amateur Radio in Canada. I hope one of you may consider stepping forward. Send me an email if you have any questions. It's been a great experience and RAC has a great future.

One question some folks ask is what does RAC do for Amateurs in Canada who may not be members? RAC does represent all Canadian Amateurs to Industry Canada. On April 23 RAC met with Industry Canada for a one on one session called the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board, CARAB. It's because of these meetings all Canadian Amateurs have access to 60 Metres. I will give some details of the meeting in my next report.

Finally again this year RAC will be awarding scholarships to Canadian Amateurs who are studying at the post secondary level in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM). If you know of anyone who qualifies please have them search Scholarships Canada for further details or they can contact me.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [ve3xt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xt@rac.ca) or click on the QR Code to go directly to our web page.

Bill VE3XT  
North East Ontario Regional Director      Radio Amateurs of Canada



**RaDAR Outing**

By Fred Lesnick VE3FAL

I took the morning on Saturday April 5th to take part in the RaDAR Contest. RaDAR is Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio which of course endorses and promotes activities on the go and quick set up of active amateur stations.

The website can be found here:

<http://radar-america.blogspot.ca/>

<http://radar-america.blogspot.ca/2014/02/radar-america-contest-april-2014.html>

The contest was a 4 hour time block and had various categories. I chose to do the portable qrp option taking my radio and antennas and snowshoes to get to where I wanted to be. The time frame for this RaDAR Contest was from 1400-1800z, so I left the house it was -12c. Grabbed my gear and put my snowshoes on and hiked to my spot to attempt to make my first 5 qsos before I would have to pack up, walk another km and then set up again and make 5 more contacts before doing it again. Well as the Propagation Gods would have it the bands were not great and there were a few other QSO Parties and contests on as well with Europe and Polish Stations quite loud on 15 and 10 meters. I was running a VX-1210 at 5 watts with a Chameleon Whip antenna. Exchange was call, Name Report and Grid Locator with other operators to gain points.

I worked Phil N1EP in Maine on 15 meters with a great report both ways, I then called CQ a number of times while listening to the Blue Jays and Whiskey Jacks singing while the heat of the sun slowly got warmer and warmer, remember I started at 10am local time..a slight breeze was about but the sun was great, as it has been a long winter. I then moved to 10 meters and heard a station calling CQ, it was Alex UR0EV from Ukraine, he heard me at 5 watts and we exchanged reports, Alex was a 579 and he gave me a 559, great report for a 10' mil whip and 5 watts. That was all I was able to work as the snow was getting soft now by noon and I had to snowshoe back and the snow was sticking to the bottom quite well making them heavy. If you went off the trail the snow is still waist high and not easy to get out of..

The following pictures show the trail I was on, my setup of the VX-1210 and Chameleon mil whip all sitting on my snowshoes.

All I know is it has been a long winter and we are not out of it yet, cabin fever is setting in big time for everyone up this way and spring cant arrive soon enough, let alone summer..I too needed to get out and operate portable again to keep things moving.



